Minutes of the 479th Meeting of the Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday September 18th 2026 at 10.00a.m.

At Linda's home.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Phil Hawkins, Maureen Penny, Linda Southgate, Sue Thomas.

Linda was thanked for hosting the meeting and allowing to use her home as the venue.

1. **Apologies:** Julia Denton, Andy Jones, Nigel Wright, Mary Young.
2. **Minutes for approval:** Proposed by Maureen and seconded by Sue.
3. **Matters arising:** to be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

4. Chairman: On behalf of Nigel Wright, Keith chaired the meeting. Assistance to TAW u3a to help with the Health Exhibition on 24th Sept, at Cedars, was requested. Unfortunately due to short notice only Phil may be available.

Action: Phil to check his availability for this event.
Action: Mary to be asked whether all risk assessments are up to date.
Action: With reference to the Potential Research Programme emailed to Nigel, from Matthew Neilson, it was suggested that Nigel forward to Regional Office for their consideration.

5. National Office: No report.

6. Business Secretary/Policy Co-ordinator:regional peer groups have been proposed for Treasurers, Business Secretaries etc. It was agreed that we should participate.

Action: Theaccess needingto be changed to Philis still ongoing.

Action: Nigel to contact Ann Young to check the situation – ongoing.

Action: Phil to register our group to enable us to vote in the upcoming AGM.

7. Beacon: Andy's problems with log in have been resolved.

8. Treasurer: Sue circulated the copies of the bank summary and the accounts.

Action: While Nigel did speak to relevant parties, Concern was expressed about the pay back of the group.
Action: Sue is arranging access to online banking for Maureen and sourcing a card reader. Also, Ellie Bray has been removed as a signatory.
We currently have £7000+ of disposable income. Bank charges were kept down to £1.72.
Keith confirmed via Nigel that the surplus funds within the link meeting are to be evenly distributed to the local u3a,s Barnstaple u3ahould receive 1/6th of £83.

9. **Membership Secretary:** There are currently 303members and 44affiliates, totalling 347.

   The Committee is happy for Julia to continue in her role and this will be reviewed on a monthly basis.
   Action: Nigel to look at the possibility of Zooming with Julia at Committee Meetings.

10. **Groups Co-ordinator:**A GDPR form needs to be signed by each group leader.Mary has mailed these out and they are being returned to Nigel.

Majority of leaders have returned the form

Action: Jo Archer has invited Nigel and Mary to visit one of their sessionsand Mary will contact her – ongoing.

Mary has investigated a First Aid Course through St Johns and they require a meeting in order to set this up. Maureen has some St John's leaflets that she thinks would be useful to each Group Leader.

The Embroidery Group is now meeting in people's homes.

The Canasta group is starting up at Maureen's home, on the 19th and has 9 people signed up. Canasta information on the website has been amended.

Mary is bringing jigsaws to the Coffee Morning for members to pay £2 to take away.

New groups should appear on the website in red.

11. **Speaker Secretary:**October speaker Ashley Joneson the topic of 'The British Honours System'.

Speakers will now be paid by BACS or cheque, never cash.
A budget for the payment of speakers 2027 was agreed at £1200.

12. **North Devon Link:**The next meeting to be held in February 2027 at the Cedars.

13. **Website:**Nigel requested assistance with WordPress.

14. **A.O.B.:**

Honiton U3A invited us to participate in a Big Quiz but there was no one available

The Christmas meal –Sarah Devonshire, a singer and entertainer, to entertain at a cost of £200.

Action: Andy to confirm. Keith and Andy to meet up with her in November to discuss playlist. Her electrical equipment must be PAT tested – ongoing.

Action: Maureen to investigate a Trustees' Handbook – ongoing.

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday1st October 2026.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 16th October2026 to be held at 10 a.m. at Nigel's home. The subsequent meetings to be hosted at members' homes as follows: November (Mary) to be held at Maureen's home. Future venues to be discussed

Tea and coffee: N/A

Meeting closed at 11.10a.m. and Keith thanked all for attending.