

North Devon Coeliac Group

Minutes of AGM held on Saturday 18th April 2026 at Fremington Parish Hall

Present- 18 members

Apologies received from: Dave Eadie, Heather Nicholls, Caroline Heyes, Roger Ayling, Catherine Himan

Chair's Report.

Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was held at the earlier time of 12 noon so that we could enjoy a gluten-free fish and chip lunch from Kate's Plaice (Kate had arrived with her van and was in the car park).

Sue then re-capped on the year's events since the last meeting. At the AGM in March last year, Dr Appleby had given a talk explaining the latest methods of diagnosing the coeliac condition. In November, our local blogger, Sarah Howells, gave a cookery demonstration cooking garlic and cheesy dough balls and showing us a way of cooking focaccia bread. The Christmas hamper raffle successfully raised £137.

Sue had also volunteered to help at the SW Food Fair held in November at the Riviera Centre in Torquay. This event, sponsored by Schar and Warburtons, had been well attended with Becky Excell and Sarah Howells selling their cookery books.

Sue then thanked the Committee for their efforts; Stef Foster had taken over as Treasurer, but was not finding it easy to get up to date statements of our account from CUK and had to follow up whether payments for the hall had gone through. It was all very unsatisfactory not having access to our money. Sue also thanked Janet for serving on the Committee as Secretary for 31 years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a garden gift voucher.

Secretary's Report.

Janet outlined her time as Secretary from 1995 when newsletters were typed and sent by post and meetings were held in people's houses. There were only a dozen or so people in the group then; there are now well over

500! There have certainly been a lot of changes during that time and now with technology and security being a major issue, the sending of our group newsletter is being taken from us. I feel that this is detrimental to the group as it takes away our ownership and community bonding. Members of our group will have to “opt in” to receive newsletters in the future, and this may not include members of the group who do not currently subscribe to CUK. Secretaries will no longer have access to new members whom they can welcome to the group as I have been doing since I became Secretary. Their role now will purely be responding to emails, arranging meetings with the rest of the committee and taking minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Stef reported that we had made 2 payments of £100 to CUK in the last year. From last year's balance of £571, we now have £433. The Christmas raffle had made £137, however she had not seen this payment as an entry on our statement, which was a bit concerning. The new system of our bank account being ring-fenced is proving to be frustrating.

Election of new Officers.

Chair- Sue Pitt was proposed by Janet Ellis and seconded by Barbara Trebble.

Treasurer- Stef Foster was proposed by Sue Pitt and seconded by Barbara Trebble.

There was no offer to be Secretary.

Committee Members: Janet Craner, Janet Phillips, Barbara Trebble and Frances Paul agreed to stay on the committee along with Janet Ellis.

AOB. Barbara Trebble had previously offered to act as Admin on a Group Facebook page. It was agreed that this would help to advertise our events. She said that she would contact CUK for further advice.

The meeting ended at 12.30 and everybody enjoyed a GF fish and chip lunch followed by tea and coffee with chocolate biscuits donated by Schar.

