

Ivybridge u3a learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



Welcome to the summer edition of the Ivybridge U3A newsletter. I hope you are all enjoying the lovely weather we've been having this summer, although on occasion, it has possibly been too hot for some.

Having just had the Annual General Meeting, which was very positive, I would like to welcome two new members to the committee, Victor Abbott and Mervyn Stewart. With their help we are all looking forward to planning the new year ahead. We need to look at updating the Constitution and extending the use of the Beacon System, but if any of you have any ideas or items which you would like to see carried forward please contact me or a member of the committee.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the next general meeting.

Vanessa Day

CONTACT DETAILS

Email	Ivybridge.u3a@gmail.com
Chairman	07977 905458
Membership Secretary	07780 150750



LOOK OUT FOR US ON FACEBOOK



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. President.	Cliff Bennett
Chairman	Vanessa Day
Treasurer	Christine Smith
Business Secretary	Averil Heaton
Membership & Beacon Manager	Ritsaert von Oven
Website Manager & E-mail Monitor	Paul Jones
Speaker Co-ordinator	Mervyn Stewart
Group Co-ordinator	John Bowditch
Newsletter Editor	Guy Yea
	Victor Abbott
	Graham Meaden

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

18th August The Waste Sector Landscape in the UK

Covering a wide range of topics from domestic waste to commercial, recycled, burnt or buried.

Zoe Harris

15th September From PR Professional to Garden Designer

A journey from publishing, marketing, communications and public relations, into her passion for gardening and what happened next.

Jacqui Felix-Mitchell

20th October “The Story of Plymouth Hoe, Barbican & City”

From an acknowledged expert on Plymouth history, this will be a historical, pictorial tour of our Ocean City.

Chris Robinson

17th November The Making of War Horse and other Films

A fascinating talk looking at the films & TV programmes shot on Dartmoor. Looking at the tricks of the trade, and one featuring our speaker.

Paul Rendell

15th December Christmas Party

CURRENT GROUPS

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Led by Peter Brooks
Contact 01752 880891

BOOK GROUPS

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor
Contact 01752 417315

Crime, Murder, Mystery

Led by Val Carmichael
Contact 01752 658164

BRIDGE

Led by Roger Davey
Contact 01752 894703

CANASTA

Led by John Davis
Contact 07484 786058

CHAIR YOGA 1

Led by Sylvia Rutley & Glo Horton
Contact Sylvia 07796 151141
Glo 07947 061625

CHAIR YOGA 2

Led by Debbie Harris-Bowditch
Contact 07862 7499618

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Led by Ian McClure
Contact 01548 830578

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Led by Michael Bailey
Contact 01752 892777

DARTMOOR DISCOVERY WALKING.

Led by John Reynolds
Contact 07857 048801

DARTMOOR HISTORY WALKING

Led by Stephen Woodcock Contact
01752 691305 or
07739122374

DAY TRIPS

Led by Rhoda Lloyd
Contact 07443 390043

DRAMA FOR FUN

Led by Ann Laity
Contact 07866 879218

ETYMOLOGY

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor
Contact 01752 417315

Group 2 Led by Jean Sherrell
Contact 01752 691750

FOLK CLUB

Led by Jan Niezgoda
Contact 01752 896214

FRENCH IMPROVERS

Led by Jill Sampson
Contact 01752 691033

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Led by Brian Sabel
Contact 01364 649206

GEOLOGY

Led by Mervyn Stewart and
Graham Meaden.
Contact Mervyn 07796 306892
Graham 07891 711742

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Led by Gudrun Kitidis
Contact 01752 658735

GUITAR GROUP 1 & 2

Led by Guy Yea
Contact 01752 895590

GROUPS cont.

HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN

Led by Michael & Maggy Swinson

Contact 01752 698041

LITTER PICKING

Led by Peter & Janet Slootweg

Contact 07860337572

LOCAL HISTORY

Group 1 Led by Barbara Yea

Contact 01752 895590

Group 2 Led by Derek Phillips

Contact Derek 01752 896784

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Led by Mike Swinson

Contact 01752 698041

NATURAL HISTORY

Led by Celia Ralph & Trudi Bell.

Contact Celia 01752 892555 or

Trudi 01752 896937

NEEDLECRAFT (CRAFT)

Led by Keith Mason & Kate Danby

Contact Keith 07779 289462 or

Kate 01752 839105

PLAY READING

Led by Michael Fraser

Contact 01752 830430

POETRY APPRECIATION

Led by Ann Oakins

Contact 01548 830550

QUIZ

Led by Bill McKimm

Contact 07935292055

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Led by Victor Abbott

Contact 07757 262919

SCRABBLE FOR FUN

Led by Rosemary Cole

Contact 01752 898643

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Led by Rhoda Lloyd

Contact 07443 390043

SPOON CARVING

Led by Adam Hart-Davis

Contact 07901 554143

THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY (TPP)

Led by Averil Heaton

Contact 01752 897109

UKELELE

Led by Joy Horwell

Contact 01752 893402

WINE APPRECIATION

Group 1

Led by Ritsaert von Oven

Contact 07780 150750

Group 2

Led by Richard Matthews

Contact 07967 130599

GROUP NEWS

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR GROUP LEADERS

Please keep John Bowditch informed of any changes to leaders, or to dates or venues for meetings, so that he can keep the Groups List up-to-date.

Quiz Group



Ivybridge u3a once again won the inter-u3a Quiz Competition against twelve other teams. Two years ago we scraped through beating Paignton by one point.

This year it was even closer, beating a strong team from Plymouth on a tie breaker question, both teams having finished level on 83 points with Tavy & Kingsbridge not far behind on 78 points.

Well done Liz, Sue, John and Martin, our winning team. Thank you to the other members of Ivybridge u3a who put their necks on the line.

Bill & Julie

GROUP NEWS

Dartmoor Discovery Group

We are a very welcoming small (about 12) group of people who are interested in learning more about Dartmoor - and do some walking (no more than five miles) at the same time!

Our very experienced, knowledgeable and professional guide, Paul Rendell, knows about all aspects of The Moor.

This includes pre-history (bronze age hut circles, etc), anything connected with all types of mining and quarrying. As well as the military history, all this and some natural history thrown in!

If you are interested, please contact me on:

johnwfreynolds@gmail.com
07857 048801

John Reynolds



GROUP NEWS

HOT NEWS FROM THE DAY TRIPS GROUP

A day at Newton Abbot races on Tuesday 9th September, including a talk by Jimmy Frost, a former Grand National winner. The cost is £25 including the Paddock ticket. Please contact Rhoda Lloyd 07443 390043 for further details **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

Folk Group & Guitar Group

Both groups were invited to perform at the Ivybridge Summer Festival this year held in Victoria Park. The weather was good, the festival buzzing and the performances were very well received.

The Folk Group meets on every third Wednesday of the month at Bittaford Village Hall between 7pm and 9pm.

All are welcome - to perform, sing along or just listen.



GROUP NEWS



Etymology Group 1.

We meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. Our language has some very interesting words, some old and no longer in use and other new ones being created or reused with a different meanings. We look at strange place names, odd collective nouns, weird expressions and idioms, and the origins of slang words

Each month we are given a number of archaic words, look up their meanings and then try to incorporate them into a short story.

An example would be alidade, pandect, parergon, vicenary & velligate. We then put together a story with these words and read it out to each other. Needless to say, most of the time, this leads to much laughter and amusement.

Barbara Yea



Day Trips Group

In May we visited **Hestercombe House** and gardens, a 40 acre site of lakes, temples, combes and woodland.

Originally built in 16th century, the house was used by the British 8th Corps during the second World War. Somerset County Council took ownership in 1951 and it was used as an emergency call centre and headquarters for Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue until 2012.

The house was redesigned by the architect Sir Edward Lutyens in 1904, who employed Gertrude Jekyll to design the gardens. The original plans were found so the garden was restored using these, to become one of the only truly authentic garden designs planned out by her to survive.

The gardens and house are now owned by the Hestercombe Garden Trust.

GROUP NEWS

On **15th May**, a beautiful Spring morning, fourteen U3A members left Ivybridge in a mini bus destined for the **Devon County Show**.

On arrival we dispersed in our little groups for our first mission - to find a coffee outlet , of which there were many. There was music of various genres all around.

We headed for the craft & flower pavilion, passed avenues of trade stalls where one could buy anything including very expensive pet food, hats of every style, beautiful scarves in vivid colours, & much, much more!!

What amazing smells & sights greeted us as we entered the huge tented area. There were inspirational flower arrangements, how to care for orchids once they had flowered, plant stalls, weaving demonstrations, needle crafts, and jewellery making..

We passed the music stage where a Sea Shanty group were singing followed by a choir of junior school children.

People crowded around outlets selling anything from huge combine harvesters to prestigious cars & hot tubs.

Around every corner there were animals of every kind, ranging from tortoises to Shire horses & everything in between!

We spent an amusing time watching the sheep who clearly didn't want to be poked & prodded on such a hot day. Some reluctant ones required 3 or 4 white coated helpers to drag them into the judging area!

Having had a marvellous day, we all met back at the appointed time before starting our return journey back to Ivybridge.

Joy Horwell



Spoon Carving Group

How would you like to carve a wooden spoon like one of these? They were all made by members of the Ivybridge u3a spoon-carving group, most of whom had never carved a spoon before they joined. By sheer practice they have learned a range of skills, and have made a wide variety of beautiful spoons, from big ladles to love spoons and tiny salt spoons, and everything in between.

We meet in the morning of the first and third Friday of the month, on the lawn in fine weather, or otherwise in the workshop. No one takes it too seriously, and there is no hurry or pressure. Keith, in particular, spent more than a year carving, with great skill, a totally useless spoon.

The inspiration to start this group came from Spoonfest, an annual event in which 250 people gather in Derbyshire, and camp for a long weekend, just to carve wooden spoons. Spoonfest began in 2011 with a few enthusiasts, but now is a world-renowned event; when the tickets go on sale online they have been known to sell out in nine minutes

There are workshops, talks and demonstrations, but what I have most enjoyed there is meeting old friends, sitting in the sunshine whittling on a piece of wood.

During covid times, the u3a group sat in the garden occasionally. Now we meet every month rain or shine in doors or out whatever the weather. We have a few experienced spoon carvers in the group, but most are newcomers who have never tried before, but soon they become enormously proficient.

One or two members follow patterns from books or magazines, but mostly we go our own way, making up whatever takes their fancy. If you would like to join us give me a ring, Adam Hart-Davis 0790 1554143.





Local History Group 2

Our trip to the Jewish cemetery was a surprise and fascinating. We did not know of its existence and yet it is so central to Plymouth. Jerry welcomed us in the synagogue with tea and cake whilst we listened to recordings of the lives of sixteen of the people buried there. This approach added both relevance and meaning to seeing the gravestones amidst a rather unkempt graveyard.

NEWS - Guitar Group Two

Due to its popularity a second group is forming, to be held on the second and fourth Thursday mornings each month in the morning.. Spaces are still available so please contact Guy Yea at guyyea@hotmail.com if you wish to join.

GROUP NEWS

History Group 1

Recently we took a tour of St Germans, looking at the police houses, the port and the Priory, some of which remains within the church.

The windows were created by the William Morris Company and designed by Edward Burne-Jones.



NEW GROUP

History Discussion Group

Members take turns to do a 45-minute presentation (4-5000 words) on any historical subject that interests them. e.g. social history, life stories of famous people or historical events etc. followed by questions and discussion (and coffee).

Aiming for around six people so at most this will entail two presentations a year each. Meetings will be held at Lower Brook Park Road.

Contact Cheryl Halpin corkcutter47@gmail.com

GROUP DIARY

DAY	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Mon am	Ukulele		Ukulele	Cryptic Crosswords
Mon pm	U3A Committee meeting	Current Affairs	General Monthly Meeting 2.00-4.00pm	
Tue am	Etymology 2		Book Group 1 History of Modern Britain	Local History 1 Local History 2 Litter Picking
Tue pm	Bridge	Bridge Crime Book Club Wine Appreciation Group 1 6.00-8.00pm	Bridge Play Reading	Bridge Drama
Wed am			Etymology 1	French Improvers Dartmoor History Walking
Wed pm	Canasta	Science & Tech Needlecraft	Canasta Folk 7.00-9.00pm	Wine Appreciation Group 2
Thurs am	Music Appreciation	German Convers Ancient Civilisation Guitar Group 2	Theology Philosophy Psychology	Dartmoor Discovery Walking Guitar Group 2
Thurs pm	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure Poetry
Fri am	Spoon Carving Guitar Group 1	Natural History Scrabble	Spoon Carving Geology Guitar Group 1	Chair Yoga 1&2 General Discussion
Fri pm	Chair Yoga 1&2	Chair Yoga 1&2	Chair yoga 1&2	Quiz