

Ivybridge u3a learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Ivybridge u3a newsletter. At long last the weather has decided to be a little warmer and people are getting out and about.

The committee is now planning the 2026 AGM which will be held before the general meeting on the **20th of July at 2pm at the Watermark.**

It will be with some sadness that I will be standing down after four years on the committee. It's been a pleasure helping to work for the advancement of the u3a. I am now even more convinced of the importance of life-long learning and encourage you all to think about working within the group for its survival.

I wish the new committee and all of you best wishes for the future, and hope to see you all at the meetings and groups.

Best wishes, **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	Kim Hill
Membership & Beacon Manager	Ritsaert von Oven
Website Manager & E-mail Monitor	Paul Jones
Speaker Co-ordinator	Michael Bailey
Group Co-ordinator	John Bowditch
Publicity/PR Co-ordinator	Roy Little
Newsletter Editor	Guy Yea
	Victor Abbott

FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS

- 20th July** **Tyrwitt's Tramway across Dartmoor.**
Simon will talk about the horse drawn tramway,
built in 1820, between Plymouth & Princetown..
Simon Dell.
- 17th August** **From Druid Stones to Drones.**
A History of Archaeology on Dartmoor.
Andrew Thompson.
- 21st September** **'An Expert Guide to Air Traffic Confusion'**
An amusing orientation to demystify the
confusing world of Air Traffic Control by a
former RAF Officer and Air Traffic Controller.
Nick Clyburn.
- 19th October** **Devon Inns**
Robert is a writer & photographer based in
Devon who will delve into the stories behind the
names of Devon's inns. He will also illustrate
how the sign painter's art is still very much alive.
Robert Hesketh.
- 16th November** **The History of Plympton.**
Chris, who published a book on 'The History of
Plympton' will take us through this fascinating
story.
Chris Robinson.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of Ivybridge u3a will be held at The Watermark, Ivybridge on 20th July 2026 at 2.00pm prior to the monthly General Meeting
Minutes of the 2025 AGM are available on the website

CURRENT GROUPS

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Led by Peter Brooks
Contact 07792 157581

BOOK GROUP

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 Val Carmichael & Evie Wilson,
Contact Val 01752 658164
or Evie 01752 473479

DARTMOOR DISCOVERY WALKING

Led by John Reynolds
Contact 07857 048801

DARTMOOR HISTORY WALKING

Led by Stephen Woodcock
Contact 01752 691305 or
07739 122374

DAY TRIPS

Led by Rhoda Lloyd
Contact 07443 390043

DRAMA FOR FUN

Led by Ann Laity
Contact 01752 691648

ETYMOLOGY

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor
Contact 01752 417315

Group 2 Led by Jean Sherrell
Contact 01752 691750

FOLK CLUB

Led by Jan Niezgodna
Contact 01752 896214

FRENCH IMPROVERS

Led by Jill Sampson
Contact 01752 691033

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Led by John Bowditch
Contact 078660 77030

GEOLOGY

Led by Peter Brooks
Contact 07792 157581

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Led by Gudrun Kitidis
Contact 01752 658735

GUITAR GROUP 1 & 2

Led by Guy Yea
Contact 01752 895590

HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

Led by Cheryl Halpin
Contact
corkcutter47@gmail.com

**HISTORY OF MODERN
BRITAIN**

Led by Michael & Maggy
Swinson

Contact 01752 698041

LITTER PICKING

Led by Peter & Janet Slootweg

Contact 01752 898534

LOCAL HISTORY

Group 1 Led by Barbara Yea

Contact 01752 895590

Group 2 Led by John and Sue

Lassan

Contact John 07910 127257 or

Sue 07521 063728

NATURAL HISTORY

Led by Trudi Bell.

Contact 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 07935 292055

READING GROUPS

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor

Contact 01752 417315

Group 2 Led by Alison Stobart

Contact 07443 619891

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Led by Victor Abbott and Liz
Rider

Contact Vic on 07757 262919

or Liz 01364 73696

SCRABBLE FOR FUN

Led by Rosemary Cole

Contact 01752 898643

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Led by Rhoda Lloyd

Contact 07443 390043

**THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY
& PSYCHOLOGY (TPP)**

Led by Vanessa Day

Contact 01752 651214

UKELELE

Led by Joy Horwell

Contact 01752 893402

WINE APPRECIATION

Led by Ritsaert von Oven

Contact 07780 150750

WOOD-CARVING

Led by Adam Hart-Davis

Contact 07901 554143

Your Support is Needed

The u3a is a self-supporting organisation which exists to promote education to older people and those retired from full time work by creating interest groups and activities to make our lives more fulfilling and interesting. To achieve this there is an elected but essentially volunteer Executive Committee which oversees and supports the individual groups and activities.

These individual groups are run by enthusiastic leaders, again voluntarily, either from their homes or from local venues. Sometimes the specific skills needed by an interest group cannot be found within the membership, in which case the skill set is brought in, for example in the Chair Yoga group, but essentially the enabling person or group leader is a volunteer.

As you are probably aware we have had a large drive to get new volunteers for the Executive Committee. Hopefully at our July AGM they will be endorsed by you to continue all the hard work done by previous committee members.

Recently we have lost some groups, not from lack of interest but because nobody was prepared to step up and become leader. This diminishes the range of activities that we can offer and is a truly sad situation.

I can only say that running two groups gives me immense pleasure and pride, and it is well worth the time and effort.

Also, for those currently in groups, shout about your achievements and interesting trips! It does not have to be left to the group leader so feel free to send me a brief report and/or a photograph. Just send it to me on an email and I will distribute it through our magazine.

So please give this some thought. Have you an interest, knowledge or skill that others would enjoy? Could you give some time to help with the running a group? It really isn't difficult or onerous and there is lots of help available.

If so please contact any of the committee or call me on 07963737731 or email me at guyyea@hotmail.com.

Guy Yea

GROUP NEWS

FOLK CLUB

Another very entertaining night at Bittaford Hall, where we were entertained by six groups of members in the first part of the evening, followed by the Dust Devils, making their fifth appearance at our club. They are a blue grass band with u3a member, Rick, playing the mandolin.



LITTER PICKING

Litter picking is an unusual group for the u3a but we have a solid core of half a dozen going out every month. The town is exceptionally tidy now though, with a new District Council employee. You may know him and he may have fed your dog treats!

Nevertheless, there is always something to pick up and we end up with our half-full pink bags deposited next to the public loos or up at the Railway Station carpark.

We go out on the 4th Tuesday, meeting at the Watermark at 10am.

Local History Group 1

On Tuesday 28th we visited Crownhill Fort in Plymouth.

Ian, Keith and Elaine (volunteer guides) started our tour in the 1890's Barrack Room museum, where twenty men slept. This ranged from 12-year old drummer boys to 17-year old riflemen, earning one shilling and a penny at day.

Next to the 1944 Barrack Room which slept ten men, where we handled rifles (some very heavy), and were shown the men's uniforms and kit.

We then walked the ramparts of the fort, passing the various large guns. Here we had a wonderful view out across Plymouth. After which we explored underground before returning to the Middle Fort for a gun to be fired. (Hands over ears!).



GROUP NEWS

Local History Group 2



After taking over in January we had a proper baptism of fire. On our first event in February our planned speaker pulled out with just 24hrs notice but we sorted it - thanks to Barbara from Group 1 with some useful contacts. Our next event was a thoroughly enjoyable guided tour of Saltram House. This was after a lunch (not at Saltram) which was late being served & some members didn't have time to eat their dessert which had to be packed & taken home.

Although these things were beyond our control, we were beginning to wonder what we had let ourselves in for. Normality was restored with a very successful trip to Wheal Martyn in April, where this photo was taken.

We have just about sorted our programme for the year & are looking forward to some more interesting visits.

John & Sue Lissan

GROUP NEWS

Guitar Groups

The Guitar group one has gone from strength to strength, as we have performed at Ivybridge Festival and the u3a Folk club, most being members anyway. Due to it being popular, and with more enquires coming in to join, I decided last year to form a second group.

Group one meets on Fridays and Group two meets on Thursday. This second group has at present four members with room for a fifth, so if anyone fancies a go they would be most welcome.

Both groups are kept small so that numbers do not outweigh hearing individual's contributions.

Although both groups are not for beginners, we try to do a mixture of popular songs chosen by the group members.

Guy Yea



FURTHER NEWS

Friends of Ivybridge Library

Many of you will have read or heard on local news that Devon County Council (DCC) has approved a £2 million funding package to secure and modernize the county's 50 libraries. The investment maintains current staffed opening hours and includes a £1 million transformation fund, an additional £1 million from council underspend, and £100,000 for new books and digital resources.

This comes after a county-wide consultation about the proposed cuts (which were savage and presented as almost inevitable) resulted in over 25,000 people completing the questionnaire and arguing that current services should be maintained. A real demonstration of people power!

We are extremely lucky to have a modern, thriving library in Ivybridge which offers not just books, but also author talks, a legal clinic, technical help and support, a Knit and Natter group, and for those with grandchildren, a range of children's activities. It is a warm safe space in winter (with a rack of free warm coats to help yourself to) and is a pleasant place to meet friends for coffee.

Pip Swain and I are members of the Friends of Ivybridge Library, a fairly informal group which organises quiz nights and jigsaw competitions to raise funds for local use. New members are always welcome (information leaflets are available in the library) as are volunteers to help in the actual library.

I entreat you to use and enjoy our library and if you would like to support it more actively, please join as a Friend or volunteer.

Christine Smith

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	Quiz
Tue am	Etymology 2		Reading Group 1 History of Modern Britain	Local History 1 Litter Picking Local History 2
Tue pm	Bridge	Bridge Crime Book Club Wine Appreciation 6.00-8.00pm	Bridge Play Reading	Bridge Drama
Wed am		History Discussion	Etymology 1	French Improvers Dartmoor History Walking
Wed pm	Canasta	Science & Tech Reading Group 2 Needlecraft	Canasta Folk 7.00-9.00pm	
Thurs am		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	Wood Carving Guitar Group 1	Natural History Scrabble Litter Picking	Wood 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	