

**IVYBRIDGE U3A
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WATERMARK IVYBRIDGE 20th JULY 2026**

PRESENT

All Members had been invited with enough attending to satisfy quorum requirements. (For the names of those attending please see the list held by the Membership Secretary.)

1. WELCOME

Vanessa Day as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their continuing support.

2. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The membership at present stands at 374 although the number of groups is about to drop from 41 to 40 in August due to no leader being available to lead the Local History 1 group.

The committee have had an interesting and varied year.

A well-attended Christmas party was held in December, with in-house entertainment which was much appreciated.

There have been two new members meetings held, which are very useful for the committee to find out both where new members heard about us and also if there's anything more we should be doing for them.

A Leaders and Helpers evening to thank people for all the hard work they do leading groups and helping run Ivybridge u3a was also well-attended.

Notable moments include the choir's moment of glory appearing on Spotlight last month (June) and the Drama group's interview on Radio Devon.

This year the committee has worked very hard updating the constitution in line with the U3A National Constitution template, but there is still work to be done for it to be accepted by the Charity Commission. An extraordinary general meeting was held on 16th February 2026 where a unanimous vote was given by the membership for this change.

The attendance at the General meetings have been good this year, slightly up from last year, and the speakers have been varied and extremely interesting.

Sadly, there are always going to be a few negatives. Groups have been lost due to lack of leaders and there has been a downturn in people supporting the day trips. Also, the last Newsletter was very thin. These are the challenges for the new committee in the coming year.

In the last month, we have been given notice that the Tamar Valley Network has been re-convened after it was abandoned during Covid. It gives an opportunity for u3as in the area to

meet and share how trustees are recruited, groups are run and how mutual problems are overcome

The Chair thanked a number of people without whom Ivybridge U3A would not exist. These are the Group leaders who give their time and support to members, the committee, for their hard work, the helpers who are often called in at short notice, Rhoda Lloyd for organising day trips, and President Cliff Bennett for his continued support.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st July 2025 as a true record of proceedings was agreed unanimously by a show of hands. Proposed by Rhoda Lloyd and Seconded by Debbie Bowditch.

4. TREASURERS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The annual accounts have been made available for inspection on the website, so it is assumed that everyone has examined them carefully. The Independent Examiner has cross-checked everything and the Trustees of Ivybridge U3A, in other words the Executive Committee have approved them and they are presented for information.

However, a few words of explanation and clarification might be appropriate although questions can be asked later.

Membership fees appear to have dropped but this is a return to the pattern of previous years and, as has been explained in the past, reflects the month when subscription renewals are actually received. Over 80% of members now use BACS transfers to pay their fees for which the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer are grateful.

Day trips last year were both successful and enjoyable and resulted in a surplus that the Committee decided, with Rhoda Lloyd's blessing, to use to pay for the Christmas party. Money held in the Social account at the year-end is due to be paid out for upcoming trips.

The most dramatic decrease in expenditure comes in the newsletter costs, entirely due to it now being an online publication, with only nine copies currently being posted to those members with no email.

As in previous years, Sundry Expenses is a catch-all heading and includes committee costs, new members coffee meetings and the thank-you evening for the Group Leaders and regular helpers at the monthly meetings.

Generally speaking, other costs have risen in line with inflation or increasing membership and the Treasurer considers that there is no cause for concern.

Finally, thanks were given Stephen Woodcock for once again checking the accounts and acting as an Independent Examiner. Ivybridge u3a is indebted to him, as always.

5. THE RATIFICATION OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF STEVEN WOODCOCK AS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The proposal for the reappointment of Steven Woodcock as Independent Examiner for the year 2026-27 was ratified by a show of hands. Proposed by Barbara Yea and Seconded by Ray Waudby

6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2026-27

The Chair proposed that the 13 Candidates who had been proposed and seconded by members, be elected as a group instead of each being voted on individually. This was accepted by a show of hands. Their election was then unanimously confirmed by another show of hands. Proposed by Lydia Mc Clure and Seconded by Rosie Collard.

The Committee for the coming year beginning 20th July 2026 would therefore comprise of;

- 1. Victor Abbott**
- 2. John Bowditch**
- 3. Richard Fee**
- 4. Kim Hill**
- 5. Tom Holway**
- 6. Margaret Jones**
- 7. Paul Jones**
- 8. Andrew Keen**
- 9. Roy Little**
- 10 Ritsaert von Oven**
- 11. Sylvia Rutley**
- 12. Christine Smith**
- 13. Guy Yea**

7. RATIFICATION OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLIFF BENNETT AS HONOPARY PRESIDENT.

The ratification of Cliff Bennett's reappointment as Honorary President, which had been proposed and seconded by members of the Committee, was endorsed by a show of hands.

8. CLOSURE OF A.G.M.

The Chair then closed the Annual General meeting and commenced the business of the ordinary general meeting for July.