

Ivybridge U3A
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on 21 July 2025

PRESENT

There were 82 members present. (For the names of those attending, please see list held by the Membership Secretary).

1.WELCOME

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

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Looking back, Vanessa said, the Executive Committee had had another busy year. Our membership now stood at 380 and presently we had 40 groups.

The committee had been working on extending the use of the Beacon management system. We now had only nine members with whom we communicated by letter, so most items were sent out electronically. In August the newsletter had been sent out via Beacon for the first time. Since then, all paperwork for subscriptions and for the AGM had been sent out electronically .

A bulletin was sent out after every general meeting, with an outline of the speaker's presentation and all the messages given out at the meeting. Messages from other U3As advising of events throughout Devon were now sent out via the Beacon system. Ultimately, this had improved our communication with members.

Other improvements included our risk assessments for all groups and the revamp of the display board, which had been used for two public relations events that year. We had also set up a helpers' group to aid the Committee when extra 'hands' were needed.

In April we had a visit from a representative of the national PR company. She was very interested in our groups and will be taking photographs of the Guitar group and the Folk club for possible inclusion in national PR campaigns. These two groups also represented us in the town's "Party in the park".

The day trips were still well attended: last summer a boat trip to Calstock had been enjoyed by many and this year we had had a trip to Hestercombe House and one to the Devon County show. A boat trip to Dartmouth, and a trip to the races were still to come.

The Christmas party had been well attended, by 130 members, with in-house entertainment enjoyed by all. We had organised two cheese-and-wine evenings this year to thank the leaders and helpers, the extra one this year was because we had brought this event forward into the summer months as requested by some leaders. We had also had three “new member” coffee afternoons.

At that point Vanessa said she would like to thank a number of people without whom this U3A would not exist. She wanted to thank the group leaders who give their time and support to their groups, the Committee for their hard work and support, and the helpers without whom they couldn't manage. (We now had a designated 'Help Group'!). Rhoda Lloyd also was thanked for organising the trips, and Kay Baylis for the monthly account of the speaker. “Thank you all so very much for all your hard work”, she said.

“The Committee will now start planning for the year ahead”.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 June 2024 as a true record of the proceedings was proposed by Avril Eaves and seconded by Norman Simpson. This was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For a second year, the accounts had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM using the Beacon system (and in a handful of cases by post). The Trustees of Ivybridge U3A, in other words the Executive Committee, had approved them and they were presented for information. However, the Treasurer said that a few words of explanation and clarification would be appropriate,

Membership fees appeared to have dramatically increased since the previous year, but this was a reflection of members renewing their subscriptions well in advance of the year end. The majority of members used BACS transfers to pay their fees now, which had greatly streamlined the renewal process, and members with online banking were encouraged to do the same in future.

Events activity had been the major change from previous years, and thanks to the sterling efforts of Rhoda Lloyd, several very successful day trips have been enjoyed by members. Much of the money held in the Social account was due to be paid out for upcoming trips.

There had been some splendid speakers in the last year and this was reflected in the increase in the fees paid.

Printing costs had increased, because the leaflet had been revised and reprinted twice and the seemingly dramatic decrease in postage costs could be explained by including postage used exclusively for distributing the Newsletter under that heading. That would

now drop considerably with the move to an electronically distributed Newsletter, with only a few members receiving hard copy by post.

Website costs were bi-annual, so only appear in alternate years.

The Licence fee expenditure was for the Beacon licence and a Copyright Licence.

As in previous years, Sundry Expenses was a catch-all heading and included Committee costs, New Members' coffee meetings and the evening thank-you event for the Group Leaders and regular helpers at the monthly meetings.

Generally speaking other costs had risen in line with inflation or increasing membership and the Treasurer considered that there was no cause for concern.

Overall, the financial position continued to be sound but despite membership having recovered to pre-Covid levels there were steadily rising costs. To ensure that Ivybridge U3A continued to thrive and expand, it was proposed to increase the membership fee from £18 to £20 year with effect from 1st April 2026.

Finally, thanks were given to Stephen Woodcock for once again checking the accounts and acting as an Independent Examiner.

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 2025-26 was ratified by a show of hands.

6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2025-26

There had been fewer candidates nominated for election than there were places on the Committee. The Chairman proposed that the 8 candidates who had been proposed and seconded by members be elected as a group instead of each being voted on individually and the suggested procedure was accepted by a show of hands. Their election was then unanimously confirmed by another show of hands. The Committee for the year beginning 21 July 2025 would therefore be comprised of:

Victor Abbott
John Bowditch
Vanessa Day
Averil Heaton
Paul Jones
Christine Smith
Mervyn Stewart
Ritsaert von Oven.

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

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

8. CLOSURE OF A.G.M.

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

AH/26/7/25